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Book Summary: Rwanda Inc.

*Rwanda Inc.* is a short book written by Patricia Crisafulli and Andrea Redmond detailing the inspiring transformation Rwanda is making out of the horrifying aftermath of the 1994 genocide, which was estimated to have resulted in over a million deaths in 100 days. The title, *Rwanda Inc.*, is a reference to the authors’ comparison of Rwanda’s leader, President Paul Kagame, to a corporate CEO, focused on leading Rwanda as a “pro-private sector, free market economy with governance structures that enhance transparency and uphold zero tolerance for corruption” (Crisafulli 18). President Kagame is revered as a true hero by many, since the beginning of his first democratically-elected term about 12 years ago. Some even venture to say that he is the “architect of the new Rwanda” (Crissafully 27). And when he steps down from office in 2017, there is concern whether a new successor will be able to take his place.

But all of those are just words unless you look at the actual numbers. The most significant piece of data is the reduction in poverty, with 44.9% living in poverty in 2011 compared to 56.9% in 2006, a reduction that totals to about 1 million people. Rwanda is also part of a small group of African countries that is on target to reach most of its United Nations Millennium Development Goals by 2015, which aims to reduce poverty and improve education, health, and infant mortality (Crisafulli 24).

A key aspect of Rwanda’s transformation, as illustrated by this book, will be its ability to escape the ethnic tension from its past and focus on building its modern economy. As the first democratically-elected president of Rwanda, Kagame leaves behind some large shoes to fill. He will likely have a strong say in who will take over after him, but like any other CEO, it is not only up to him to make the final decision. It is also suggested that Kagame may even remain in a government position that will allow him to advise the next president.